

REMARKS

In response to the Decision of the Board of Patent Appeal and Interferences dated September 30, 2005, the claims have been amended to further clarify the distinctions between the subject matter of the present invention and the disclosure of the Unger patent (US 5,721,910).

For instance, one of the distinguishing features of the invention that was identified in Applicant's previous remarks was the creation and use of a parameter file as the basis for importing data records from external databases. In addressing this particular feature, the Decision refers to a search strategy that can be conducted on a commercial database system. It is respectfully submitted, however, that the parameter file of the present invention is different from a set of search terms. More particularly, the parameter file provides information about the layout of records in the external databases, i.e. it identifies fields in the database. For instance, paragraph 0029 describes exemplary fields such as title, access number and classification code. As recited in the claim, data from the fields in an external database that are identified in the parameter file is imported and stored in an internal database.

It is respectfully submitted that the Unger patent does not disclose this claimed subject matter. Rather than using a parameter file that describes the *structure* of the external databases, in particular fields to be imported, the terms in a search strategy indicate particular *values* for data of interest. Records containing matching values are retrieved.

Another distinguishing feature of the invention is a spreadsheet that functions as an interactive user interface. For example, Figure 6 illustrates a user selectable box 625 that can be employed to view citation statistics. When this box is selected,

the user can view citation information for a group of patents represented in a cell of the spreadsheet. While the Unger patent may suggest the use of a spreadsheet to display information, that suggestion is only in the context of the *format* for the display of information. The patent does not teach the use of a spreadsheet as the user interface to inform the user about items displayed in the spreadsheet. In other words, the spreadsheet of the present invention does not merely involve the arrangement of data. Rather, it provides a functional interrelationship with the computer, via which the user can click on a group in the spreadsheet and enable new groupings to be displayed, for example that contain citation statistics. This is a particularly advantageous feature when employed in connection with the evaluation of patents or patent portfolio strength.


Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the claims, as presented herein, clearly identify the distinctions between the present invention and the Unger patent, as interpreted in the Board's Decision. Favorable consideration thereof, and allowance of the application, is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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